



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 27, 2000

### **S. 2848**

#### **Pecos National Historical Park Land Exchange Act of 2000**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
on September 20, 2000*

CBO estimates that S. 2848 would not significantly affect the federal budget. The bill could affect direct spending (including offsetting receipts); therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply, but we estimate that any such effects would total less than \$200,000. S. 2848 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

S. 2848 would authorize a land exchange among the Forest Service, the National Park Service (NPS), and a private landowner. In exchange for conveying to the Secretary of the Interior 154 acres of privately owned land within the Pecos National Historical Park in New Mexico, S. 2848 would direct the Forest Service to convey to the private landowner 160 acres of lands that lie within the boundary of the Santa Fe National Forest. As part of the exchange, the Secretary of the Interior would grant the private landowner an easement to access two existing water wells within the boundaries of the park. Based on information from the Forest Service and the NPS, CBO estimates that federal administrative costs to complete the exchange would total less than \$100,000 over the 2001-2002 period, assuming the availability of appropriated amounts. We also estimate that federal costs for land management would not change significantly under S. 2848.

S. 2848 specifies that the lands to be exchanged must be equal in value and, if differences in the value of the lands are found, would authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to make or accept cash equalization payments. Under the bill, the Secretary could retain and spend, without further appropriation, receipts from any such payments received from the landowner. However, based on information from NPS regarding the estimated value of the lands to be exchanged, CBO estimates that any cash equalization payment is not likely to exceed \$200,000.

According to the Forest Service, the current management plan for the Santa Fe National Forest identifies the lands to be conveyed under this legislation as suitable for exchange.

They currently generate no significant receipts, and the agency does not expect the lands to generate significant receipts over the next 10 years. Hence, we estimate that implementing the exchange would not significantly affect offsetting receipts or payments to states.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Megan Carroll. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.